Sanction for rake points

442. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would sanction full rake points in Reeva and Neemuch and half rake point at Niwari;

(b) if so, by when the same will be sanctioned; and

(c) specific date for sanctioning the above rake points?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Traffic demand does not justify opening of full rake points at Rewa, Neemuch and half rake point at Niwari. Hence there is no proposal to set up rake points at these stations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supply of sub-standard/underweight foodstuff to Railways passengers

443. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any surprise checks are conducted on the supply of foodstuffs supplied to the passengers by private catering vendors on railway platforms.;

(b) whether it is a fact that sub-standard/underweight foodstuff is supplied to the passengers;

(c) whether these activities of the vendors are overlooked/done in connivance with the Inspectors;

(d) whether Government has laid down mandatory provisions for the vendors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Surprise checks are being conducted by Commercial and Health Officials to ensure that the quality of eatables and beverages is as per the prescribed standards. Samples of food and beverages are checked regularly to ensure quality under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Railways have laid down certain mandatory provisions for vendors like the tariff and weight for each item sold by them and has taken various measures *viz.* use of quality raw material from approved sources and ISI, FPO etc. certified products, introduction of three piece casserole packed meals in place of open thalis in mail/express trains, use of eco-friendly packaging materials supply of safe drinking water along with meals, etc. Regular inspections and surprise checks of catering units are conducted by officers and supervisory staff to ensure that over charging or less quantity of food is not served to the passengers and deterrent action is taken against the defaulters.

System developed by IIT, Kanpur for Railways

444. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an instrumentation system has been developed, with reported successful field trials, at the IIT, Kanpur, to detect in advance, changes that take place in the shape of railway wagons when sudden brakes are applied to ward off accidents, and minimise the number of derailments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status; and

(c) time frame fixed, if any, for large scale use of the new system on the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No, Sir. No such instrumentation system to detect in advance, changes that take place in the shape of railway wagons when sudden brakes are applied, has been developed at IIT, Kanpur.'

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Neutral Control Wing of Indian Railways

445. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the functioning of Neutral Control Wing of Indian Railways; and

(b) whether the recommendations of Neutral Control Wing has relevance to Railway safety?